



# News Release

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**Release 2003-60**

NORTHWEST FOOD PROCESSING MEETING  
TO LOOK AT INDUSTRY STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE

For Immediate Release  
Boise, Idaho - Dec. 8, 2003

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Food processing executives and leaders from around the Pacific Northwest will gather in Boise Wednesday (Dec. 10) to discuss industry strategies that can guide the industry forward in a new globally competitive environment, officials with the Idaho Energy Division's Industries of the Future announced today.

The food processing leaders, along with government officials, will zero in on key issues such as energy prices and availability, technology and infrastructure investment, and then strategize an industry path forward.

Idaho Lieutenant Governor Jim Risch and Dennis Conley, Chairman of the Northwest Food Processors Association, are leading the high level discussions. The conference comes at a time when energy prices and availability, waste management requirements and aging infrastructure pose serious challenges to Idaho's and regional food processing clusters.

"New technologies and policies may provide major new opportunities for remaining competitive in a global economy. We will learn from experts; discuss concerns, barriers and solutions; and prioritize those issues the food industry wishes to take forward in the policy and technical arenas," the two wrote in a joint letter of personal invitation to food processing executives around the region.

Topics include energy pricing and availability, producing more with less and new industry technology. Key areas being examined include:

- Natural gas and electricity pricing and availability and world oil and natural gas forecasts;
- Digestion and waste management, combined heat and power and best practices to improve plant performance; and,
- New technology including reduced water and energy potato process, ARi bio-refinery and separation and infrastructure financial analysis

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Facilitated discussions in the afternoon will address:

- Energy—Strategies for assuring adequate supplies at a reasonable price;
- Process—Developing new technologies; and
- Finance—Policies to facilitate building new infrastructure

The program runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the DoubleTree Hotel Riverside. For more information contact Ken Eklund with the Idaho Energy Division (208) 327-7974.

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